

in | ENGLAND AND THE SOUDAN.

IS ANOTHER CONQUEST MEDITATED BY
LORD SALISBURY?

PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THE
VENEZUELA DISPUTE-THE BRITISH DEMON-

STATION ON THE UPPER NILE—METALISM AGAIN—VICTOR HUGO'S LETTERS—LONDON IN LENT.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

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London, March 14.—While rumors of the settlement of the Venezuela question are premature, some progress has been made during the week. A well-informed diplomatist tells me

that it is not true that Lord Salisbury is reluctant to effect a compromise on that question. On the contrary, he is most anxious and eager to bring about a speedy adjustment of all matters at issue between the United States and Great Britain, and if that result be not speedily accomplished it will not be through lack of conciliatory policy on the part of the Foreign Office, but because Secretary Olney, with the Presidential bee buzzing in his bonnet, prefers to keep the controversy open for political effect. Lord Salisbury is certainly making great efforts

The correctness of this view, that difficulties have been created in Washington rather than in London, is shown by the fact that remarkable pains have been taken by members of the Government to remove the impression that the Monroe Doctrine was not respected by England. The speeches of all the public men of England are explicit on this point, and everything has been done to conciliate American opinion in

that respect. The settlement of the boundary dispute was a matter of detail which could have been easily arranged by the direct action of the United States and Venezuela, if the American Commission had not been in the way. Mr. Olney, according to this English view, has not been willing to sacrifice the Commission, while Lord Salisbury has insisted that it must disappear from the scene. The difficulty has been to find some substitute for an *ad hoc* or *extra* commission.

Mr. Marston's letter to the British Government, when it is done, the latter will readily agree upon some substitute for the Schomberg line as a basis of settlement of the frontier dispute.

Mr. C. H. Henry Norman, in the "Daily Chronicle," is pointing out a good man holed in the British case as revealed by the Blue Book, and "The St. James's Gazette" waxes hot in denouncing the unwarrantable demands of the American Government, and in protesting in advance against an ignominious retreat of the British Government from its strong position. Little attention is paid by the public to these demonstrations, or to Mr. Marston's letters to the "Daily News" respecting the food supply of

The prospect of war between Spain and the United States passes equally without observation, and the country is not alarmed by the prediction that its carrying trade would be menaced by the issue of letters of marque to privateers on each side.

It is in Africa, not in America, that shots are fired which involve serious consequences. The Italian defeat at Adowa has kindled the fires of fanaticism in the deserts and made expedient a British demonstration of military force on the Nile. The defence of Wady Haifa by an advance to Dongola and the expulsion of the Dervishes seem a synthetic movement in behalf of Italy rather than a necessary precaution for the protection of lower Egypt. Yet Lord Wolseley, who attended the last Cabinet meeting, must have advised it, and he knows the Nile Valley and understands how explosive is the Mahdist enthusiasm after a victory. It hardly seems possible, although to-day's "Times" plainly forebodes it, that the occupation of Dongola

The following account of the advance upon Dongola is given on the authority of one conversant with the facts:

"The Italians have been asking the English to make a diversion in their interests for a month past, but the Salisbury Government could not comply with the request until the recent catastrophe occurred. Then action be-

The pot in the Transvaal is still simmering, and Mr. Chamberlain has full occupation in keeping it from boiling over. President Kruger is anxiously anxious to come to England but

suspicious that the Jameson trial has not been undertaken with sincerity. How long the Bow Street Inquiry will last nobody ventures to forecast, but another adjournment on Tuesday is probable, and the case may drag along for weeks, until the officials return from South Africa with the testimony for which they were sent. Why there should be protracted delay in securing the committal of the accused for trial is inexplicable. The impression is general that the Government are more anxious to make a show of prosecuting than to convict the raiders. That may be an unjust suspicion, but it is not an unreasonable conclusion.

Parliament is the dulllest show in London, the

bore being prominent in the debates and the divisions devoid of interest. Mr. Balfour's rule is working admirably, and the financial discussion is well ordered. He himself is leading the House with dexterity and firmness, and is making no mistakes, but with a great majority behind him and no dangerous controversial subjects yet broached, that is not a remarkable record. Mr. Chamberlain was heard only once this week, but then to good advantage. His speech on the Ashantee campaign went far

toward justifying what has seemed like a useless and unnecessary expedition, although his humor at the expense of the overthrow of the King was flippant. Lord Cranborne made a poor speech in moving the second reading of the Benefices bill, urging that the Church had suffered in reputation from abuses of patronage and ought to be relieved on the narrow grounds

of expediency. There was no breadth in the argument of this narrow-minded pillar of the Church party in behalf of a measure which forbids the sale of advowsons by auction and arms Bishops with power to remove undesirable holders of livings. One of these incumbents he described as wrangling with everybody, refusing